Shadow Spinner

*By: Ashley Block*

I read Shadow Spinner by Susan Fletcher. I really liked this book. In the beginning it was sort of slow, but a chapter or to into it, it gets more interesting. The main character is Marjan. She is a young girl growing up near the sultan’s palace in India, with her aunt and uncle. When she was younger her mother dropped a heavy pot on her foot and Marjan’s foot never grew right after that. Shortly after her mother was killed and she had to live with her aunt and uncle. One day her aunt went to sell her things for money at the palace and brings Marjan with her. Once they set out all of their goods a flood of people poor into the palace’s garden and start to bargain prices. Marjan sees some children and they ask her to tell them a story. Marjan gathers them around and they listen intently as she tells them a story about talking fish and a fisherman. Then a woman from the palace tells Marjan to follow her and asks her to retell her story to a woman called Shahrazad. After she tells the story to Shahrazad she has to find the other parts of the story, and it won’t be easy.

I liked this book a lot. My favorite part in the story is when Marjan goes to the bazaar. The author used really good descriptive words; she described the smell, the sounds, and the sights really well. I could almost imagine standing right next to Marjan as she walked through the crowded streets of the bazaar. The story was slow for the first few pages but then it fell into a steady pace of suspense and drama. Marjan does so many things that people in the United States can only imagine doing. Like ridding in a trunk around town, and being lowered down from a great height in a basket, and running and jumping over the roof of a giant palace. I think that the story is very good, and I would recommend it for girls or people who like to read about different peoples’ traditions and lifestyles. The women in this story all wear a traditional outfit, a dress, headdress, and a head scarf. If you like suspense stories I think that you would really like Shadow Spinner. If you don’t like to read about girls trying to survive in a strange predicament than you probably don’t want to read this book. Another one of my favorite parts is when Marjan explores the palace. She uses so many good descriptive words; it makes a very good mental image. I would read this book over and over if I didn’t have to read another book for a book report. I think this book is a great read and especially for girls. This book takes place in India, with a girl who loves to tell stories. One story changes her life, forever. And Marjan has the chance to save Shahrazad from a terrible fate. If she can find the rest of her story. Read Shadow Spinner to find out if Marjan can save her friend Shahrazad’s life.